

Significant Governance Issues - Mid-Year Assessment 2016/17

Significant Issues - 2015/16 Year End	Mid-Year 2016/17 Review Assessment
<p><b>WAO Corporate Assessment Follow On Report</b></p> <p>The WAO Corporate Assessment Follow On report was received formally by Cabinet on 10 March 2016. The report made one formal recommendation and 14 'proposals for improvement' relating to various corporate matters including governance issues.</p>	<p>The Council's Statement of Action in response to the findings of the Wales Audit Office follow-on report is being progressed. The Statement of Action is being monitored on an ongoing basis by the Council's Cabinet Office, and on a quarterly basis by SMT. In Quarter 3 of 2016-17 the Statement of Action will also be presented to the Policy Review &amp; Performance Committee and the Cabinet.</p> <p>There are no significant issues with progress against the Statement of Action: most actions are rated as 'green', many have been completed and the few which are rated as 'amber' are being carefully monitored and mitigating action is in place.</p> <p>Work continues to link ODP, Corporate Plan and Budget Strategy in order to show alignment between these three key strategies.</p>
<p><b>Capacity &amp; Decision Making</b></p> <p>The Council is facing unprecedented financial pressures where significant savings have had to be realised, consequently Directorates have seen a reduction in staff resources which increases the pressure on staff to have the capacity to provide professional and sound advice.</p>	<p>Directorate Delivery plans are checked across statutory obligations such as Wellbeing for Future Generations Act and Budget savings and pressure proposals.</p> <p>A revised Directorate Delivery Planning approach will be in place for 2017-18, and the design will take account of the need to map interdependencies between different areas of the Council and to ensure appropriate allocation of resources.</p> <p>There is an ongoing need to ensure that staff are given reasonable timescales in order to provide full and robust professional advice.</p>

<p><b>Commissioning Capability and Capacity</b></p> <p>In the new Organisational Framework this will be a critical competency and capability. The success of a number of programmes depends on having this capability and capacity in place e.g. Health &amp; Social Care transformation.</p>	<p>A Commissioning Strategy is being drafted and has been deliberately separated from the Procurement Strategy in order to emphasise the differences between the two disciplines.</p> <p>The Commissioning Strategy will need to be framed based upon a clarified organisational view of the required approach. Engagement on strategy requirements will explore best practice approaches.</p>
<p><b>Transparency of Internal Market Costing</b></p> <p>The Council's internal charging arrangements are not always sufficiently transparent in terms of rate setting, monitoring and charging. Some council wide arrangements, for instance the timescales operated by Service Desks are not always sufficiently aligned to the requirements of business critical services within Directorates.</p>	<p>This action will be reframed and incorporated in to a revised issue as follows...</p> <p><b>Relevant Costs and Decision Making</b></p> <p>Internal function activities and performance needs to be accounted for more transparently within the corporate whole. This includes ensuring greater cost awareness in business decisions, such as projects with greater accountability and transparency of charges and costs.</p>